

**MARRIAGE
POLICIES
AND
GUIDELINES**

**THE CHURCH OF
CHRIST OUR LIGHT**

PRINCETON / ZIMMERMAN

*We at Christ Our Light Catholic Parish are happy
to assist you in preparation for your wedding liturgy
and married life together!*

**When planning a wedding remember that
your service is centered on Christ
and is not a performance, but a liturgy.**

**Please keep in mind to:
allow active participation by all present
resemble a Sunday service in many ways
strive for inclusivity (language, participations)**

To become married is one of, if not, the most important endeavors of a couple's life. The Catholic Church considers this so important that we want couples well-prepared and ready for this vocation. For a Catholic to get married, even when it occurs with a non-Catholic or at a non-Catholic church, there are some basic requirements:

- ___ Set a date with Fr. Kevin Anderson, pastor of Christ Our Light, 763-389-2115 or 763-856-4401
- ___ Attend the series of Christ Our Light Wedding Seminars (cost is \$40)
(Three consecutive Saturday mornings held in Fall and Winter)
At this seminar, all Diocesan requirements are explained. They include:
 - ___ Filling out the Pre-Nuptial Data Form
 - ___ Completing the Fully Engaged inventory (compatibility survey)
 - ___ Completing the Myers – Briggs Personality Inventory
 - ___ Finishing the paperwork needed for special cases (i.e., 2nd Marriage)
- ___ Meet with Maureen (Mo) Putnam, Parish Music Director, to discuss music details
- ___ Meet with your Sponsor Couple to discuss your Fully Engaged results
- ___ Meet with Fr. Kevin at least one month before the wedding to finalize details
- ___ Baptismal Certificates: newly issued for Catholics, photocopy for non-Catholic
- ___ Attend a Diocesan sponsored Pre-Marriage Retreat or Workshop
(Certificate is given on completion.)
- ___ Rough draft of your wedding program
- ___ Marriage License (obtained through the County Court House)
- ___ “Prayers of the Faithful” (also known as Petitions, see page 8)
- ___ Fee for use of the Church (\$150.00, see page 9)
- ___ Stipend for Musicians (see page 5)
- ___ Stipend for Presider (see page 9)

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING LITURGY

A wedding is a time of praise and thanksgiving for the ways that God is working in your life and relationship. A challenge at this point is to shape a wedding ceremony that aptly expresses your personal faith and love and that also expresses the public worship of the faith community.

The congregation also has an important role to play by participating in your wedding. You can ensure this by seeing that they are welcomed, providing them with a program for the service, including music for them to sing and involving them in the ritual through word and gesture.

THEME (OR FOCUS)

First, begin by determining a theme (i.e., a focus or underlying motif/idea that you want to be conveyed at the celebration). While the theme may not be explicitly stated at the liturgy, it will give you a platform from which to plan the entire service. A theme will keep your ceremony become focused and uncluttered.

Examples of Themes

Everlasting	Light	Celebration	Friendship
Commitment	Christ	Nature/Creation	Support

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Now that you have chosen your theme, the next step is to select scripture texts which complement that theme. Below is a list of suggestions; however, these are not the only scripture texts allowed. You may also shorten or lengthen any text to fit with your theme.

Most weddings include three scripture readings: a Gospel reading, an Old Testament reading, and a New Testament reading. However, it is possible to include one Gospel reading and two Old Testament readings, or one Gospel reading and two New Testament readings. Recommendations can be found below and on the next page. We ask that you, as a couple, prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your scriptural choices so that they reflect your overall theme.

(Please see appendix for all readings listed below.)

Old Testament Readings

- Deuteronomy 30:15—20, *“Choose life then so that you and your descendants may live”*
- Tobit 7:9c-10, 11c—17, *“A wedding blessing for Tobiah and Sarah”*
- Tobit 8:5—9, *“The wedding prayer of Tobiah and Sarah”*
- Song of Songs 2:8—10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a, *“A love song: Arise, my beloved and come!”*
- Isaiah 58:6—11, *“Share your bread with the hungry”*
- Isaiah 60:1—6, *“All people will walk in your light”*
- Jeremiah 1:4—9, *“See, I place my words in your mouth”*
- Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a, *“A covenant written on our hearts”*
- Ezekiel 36:25—28, *“I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you”*
- Genesis 1:26—28, 31, *“A man and woman created in God’s image”*
- Genesis 2:18—24, *“Second story of creation: The two become one body”*
- Genesis 12:1—4, *“Leave your country and come into the land I will show you”*
- Genesis 24:48—51, 58—67, *“The meeting and marriage of Isaac and Rebecca”*

New Testament Readings

Romans 8:31—34 “*Nothing can separate us from God’s love*”
 Romans 12:1-2, 9—18, “*Offer to God yourselves as a living and holy sacrifice*”
 Romans 15:5-6, 13, “*Christ, the hope of all*”
 I Corinthians 6:13a—15a, 17—20, “*Your body is a dwelling of the Spirit*”
 I Corinthians 12:31—13:8a, “*All the things love does*”
 Ephesians 4:1—6, “*Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*”
 Ephesians 5:1-2a, 21, 25—32, “*Love of the couple like that of Christ and the church*”
 Philippians 2:1—13, “*Be united in your convictions and united in your love*”
 Philippians 4:4—9, “*The God of peace be with you*”
 Colossians 3:12—17, “*Forgiving, being thankful, and other signs of our life together*”
 Hebrews 13:1—4a, 5-6a, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow*”
 I John 3:18—24, “*Love is more than words: It’s what we do*”
 I John 4:7—12, “*If we love one another, God dwells in us*”
 Revelation 19:1, 5—9a, “*God’s kingdom is like a wedding feast*”

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1—12a, “*The Beatitudes*”
 Matthew 5:13—16, “*You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world*”
 Matthew 7:21, 24—29, “*Build your house on a firm foundation*”
 Matthew 19:3—6, “*Let no one separate what God has joined*”
 Matthew 22:35—40, “*The great commandment*”
 Mark 10:6—9, “*The two are one: Let no one separate what God has joined*”
 Luke 4:16—22, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*”
 John 2:1—11, “*There was a wedding at Cana and Jesus was there*”
 John 15:9—12, “*Love one another as I have loved you*”
 John 15:9—17, “*I call you friends*”
 John 17:20—26, “*Father, may they be one*”
 John 21:15—19, “*Simon, do you love me?*”

MUSIC

Only after your theme and scripture have been selected should you move on to selecting music. Please contact Maureen Putnam (Mo), our Director of Music and Liturgy, to help you with this. It’s best to bring your theme and scripture selections with you when you meet with her.

We prefer that you would ask musicians from Christ Our Light to be part of your music team. Outside musicians can obviously be added to this team, but we find that starting with people who familiar with our procedures and sound system create a better foundation for a wedding.

Should you wish to have someone outside of the Christ Our Light Music Ministry to be a cantor or accompanist, have that person contact Mo so she can become more acquainted with his/her ability level, expertise and familiarity with a Catholic liturgy.

Also, please remember, secular or “top 40’s” music is allowed only as a prelude or postlude.

Places for Music during a ceremony with Eucharist

(*indicates must have, all others places are optional)

Prelude

Procession (use only one song)

Gathering Song

*** Psalm Response** (after 1st reading)

***Alleluia** (also known as the Gospel Acclamation)

Preparation of Gifts/Unity Candle (one song will cover both actions)

***Mass Acclamations** (including Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen)

Communion

Closing/Recessional

Places for Music during a ceremony without Eucharist

(*indicates must have, all others places are optional)

Prelude

Procession (use only one song)

Gathering Song

*** Psalm Response** (after 1st reading)

***Alleluia** (also known as the Gospel Acclamation)

Lighting of Unity Candle

Closing/Recessional

CHRIST OUR LIGHT MUSICIANS

Fees will vary per individual, according to their terms and conditions.

PIANISTS

Maureen Putnam, 389-2115 (Director)

Michele Skeim, 389-2840

Noella Fath-Cutter, 763-360-3766

CANTORS

Michele Skeim, 389-2840

Jennifer Adams, 631-1321

John Volkmuth, 389-9316

Sandy Clemons, 631-4871

Christine Bartell, 389-9258

Micki Loeffler, 389-5662

INSTRUMENTALISTS

John Volkmuth, 389-9316 (Violin/Trumpet)

Dale White, 320-363-7692 (Trumpet)

Tom Pattock, 320-259-1789 (Trumpet)

James Buxton, 612-849-1233 (Harp)

Denise Boczek, 651-748-1906 (Harp)

Marion Judish, 320-259-7649 (Violin)

St. Cloud String Quartet, 320-252-6363

OUTLINE OF THE WEDDING LITURGY

Wedding Liturgies with Mass *(celebrated with Eucharist)*

- **Liturgy of the Word:**
- Procession
- Scripture readings
- Homily
-
- **Rite of Marriage:**
- Exchange of Vows
- Blessing and exchange of Rings
- Nuptial Blessing
- Prayers of the Faithful (also called Petitions)
-
- **Liturgy of the Eucharist:**
- Preparation of Gifts/Lighting of the Unity Candle
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Communion
- Closing Prayer and Recessional

Wedding Liturgies without the Mass *(Eucharist is not included)*

- **Liturgy of the Word:**
- Procession
- Scripture readings
- Homily
-
- **Rite of Marriage:**
- Exchange of Vows
- Blessing and exchange of Rings
- Nuptial Blessing
- Prayers of the Faithful (also called Petitions)
- (optional) Lighting of the Unity Candle
- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Closing Prayer and Recessional

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

During the Rite of Marriage, the Wedding Party will gather with the Bride and Groom on the steps of the Altar, facing the congregation. The Presider will stand on the main floor.

○ ***Declaration of Intent/Questioning***

The Presider will ask the couple a series of questions (i.e., regarding their intention to enter into a permanent, faithful union, open to children). The Presider then asks the congregation about their willingness to support the couple in their married life together.

○ ***Consent/Exchange of Vows***

The couple faces each other and slowly speaks their vows to one another. Typically, the Groom begins. **VOWS MUST BE MEMORIZED.**

Please select either Form A or B.

▪ ***FORM A***

- “I, ***(name)***, take you, ***(name)***, to be my wife/husband.
- I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad,
- in sickness and in health.
- I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.”

▪ ***FORM B***

- “I, ***(name)***, take you, ***(name)***, for my lawful wife/husband;
- to have and to hold from this day forward;
- for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
- in sickness and in health, until death do us part.”

○ ***Blessing and Exchange of Rings***

ALSO MEMORIZED BY THE COUPLE. As the rings are placed on the ring finger of each person’s left hand, the following is said:

- “***(Name)***, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity,
- in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

○ ***Nuptial Blessing***

Spoken or sung by the Presider; after this blessing, the attendants return to their pews while the Bride and Groom remain standing at the altar

○ ***Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions***

Prepared by the Bride and Groom (see “Sample Prayers of the Faithful.”)

SAMPLE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL (Petitions)

Use four or five of these (or write your own), hand in a typed copy

For _____ and _____, now beginning a new life together. May they know of God's presence in their lives, and the constant support of friends and family. We pray to the Lord.

For _____ and _____, that their treasure will be each other; that learning and understanding will be the object of their ambitions; and that compassion and charity will always be the measure of their success. We pray to the Lord.

For _____ and _____, that they will always be teachers and students; that their lessons will always be peace and justice; that hope will be their bond, love their companion, and faith their journey. We pray to the Lord.

For _____ and _____, that they may experience life as with one heart and one soul, tasting its pleasures and enduring its sorrows, at all times assisting, supporting, and consoling each other. We pray to the Lord.

For all married persons, that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness with the passing of each day. We pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, especially _____ (*names and relationship to the bride/groom*) that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

For all scorned because of racial, religious, sexual and generational differences, that we will find strength in these differences and love in our hearts to strive for tolerance among all of God's people. We pray to the Lord.

For those men and women who serve in the military, that they will be kept safe from harm and strengthened by the loving arms of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

For justice and lasting peace in our world for all who are oppressed. We pray to the Lord.

For the people of _____, and for people of all nations suffering from violence and division, that hostilities will soon end and wounds will heal. We pray to the Lord.

For all of us, that we may become the instruments of peace. We pray to the Lord.

For all of us, that we will experience a renewed sense of love and faith as we journey with this couple in their married life together. We pray to the Lord.

More Details

Planning is a huge part of the entire marriage process. Therefore, we ask couples to contact Fr. Kevin preferably twelve (12) months prior to the proposed wedding date to allow adequate time for preparation.

One of the partners must be a registered member of Christ Our Light, or the child of a registered member.

Friday weddings are at 5:00 PM and Saturday weddings are at 2:00 PM. Weddings may be held on Sundays, but need to be celebrated within the context and structure of the Sunday Mass. Weddings are usually not held during Advent and Lent, and never during Holy Week (which begins on Palm Sunday and goes through Easter Sunday).

The fee for use of the church is \$150.00--the Wedding Host fee is included in this amount. *PLEASE NOTE:* This does not include fees for musicians. Many couples also make a separate offering to the Presider for his services (typical stipend is \$100).

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

There are other roles (ministries) to be performed during your celebration. Please select people to fill them.

LECTOR(S): The lector (reader) needs to be someone accustomed to taking this role in the church or comfortable with public proclamation. S/he should practice the scriptures at the rehearsal. **A separate reader for each reading is preferred.**

USHERS: Ushers may be male and/or female. They need to be chosen for their ability to welcome people and see to their needs, before, during, and after the service. They should be available to seat people at least 20 minutes before the liturgy and be familiar with the location of the restrooms, etc. Part of their responsibility is to remove items personal to the bridal party after the ceremony (i.e., programs, unity candle, etc.).

ALTAR SERVERS: Servers are not necessary, but may be used especially if a Eucharist is included in your ceremony. Servers need to be experienced.

GIFT BEARERS: Again, if celebrating the Eucharist, you may choose two to three people to carry the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: If celebrating the Eucharist as part of your wedding, you will need additional ministers to distribute communion (bread and wine). This person should be an experienced Eucharistic minister in his/her own parish.

You will need six Eucharistic Ministers (including the Presider). Two will act as Bread Ministers, and the other four will serve as Wine Ministers.

SEATING IN THE CHURCH

Christ Our Light - North--The total capacity is 400, comfortably. Generally the pews on either side of main aisle are used for a wedding which seat approximately 267. The pews to the far left/right – seat approximately 104.

Christ Our Light - South--The total capacity is 450.

WEDDING PARTY

It's best to avoid excessive numbers of groomsmen/bridesmaids. No more than six couples (include junior attendants) are recommended.

The use of Flower Girls and Ring Bearers are not encouraged during the liturgy. In most cases, their presence detracts from the focus upon the bride/groom and the solemnity of the liturgy. It is preferred to have these little ones be used only for photographs. If they are to be used in the service, it is the responsibility **of the couple** to arrange for a parent/guardian to assist them down the aisle. While the child may be comfortable at the rehearsal the night prior, walking down the aisle in front of a full church of strangers is very different, and we do not want them to feel uncomfortable or frightened!

The Witnesses (Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man) are considered legal witnesses to the marriage. They are responsible for signing the license (done immediately after the ceremony) and must be at least 16 years of age.

ENVIRONMENT

When selecting the date for your wedding liturgy, please keep in mind the liturgical season in which you will be celebrating your marriage. Our church is decorated for each season with very specific colors and fabrics, flowers, and other items. It is helpful to take this into consideration when choosing dresses, tuxedos/suits, and flowers in your planning phase.

We ask that you respect those decorations in the church environment by **NOT ALTERING OR REMOVING** elements of the décor for your wedding. **Please inform florists and photographers regarding this.** It is advisable to consult with Mo when planning any additions to the environment.

Because the altar is the central symbol of our liturgy and represents Christ, no flowers, candles, or other decorations are to be placed on it or in front of it. Floral arrangements may be placed in front of the podiums or on the table for the Unity Candle. If you plan to use decorations on the pews, please talk with Mo about how you plan to secure them. **NO tape, nails, or other such material may be used on the pews!** Aisle runners are another expensive item of little use in a carpeted church like Christ Our Light - North or Christ Our Light - South. We suggest that it may not be necessary—however, you are welcome to use one and if you do, the length of the main aisle is 55 feet at North and 100 feet at South.

For safety and maintenance reasons, the use of rice, confetti, fireworks, or birdseed is not permitted inside or outside the church. **ANY OBJECTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING PLANTS AND FLOWERS, THAT ARE DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF THE WEDDING PARTY SHALL BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WEDDING COUPLE TO REPLACE.**

The following is a list of decorations and colors that you will see in the Sanctuary during a given season of the year.

CHRISTMAS: Red, green, gold, white. Evergreen trees, poinsettias are present.

WINTER ORDINARY TIME (Immediately follows Christmas, goes until Ash Wednesday):

Soft teal shades of green, off-white, and light colors. Green plants will be added.

EASTER: Pastel colors. Many flowers and plants are incorporated, decorations are very lavish.

PENTECOST: Red, orange, yellow fiery colors.

SUMMER ORDINARY TIME: Shades of green and gold.

FALL ORDINARY TIME: Browns, reds, orange, yellow, and tan.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are usually held on the night before the wedding. Rehearsals are scheduled in consultation with the Wedding Hostess. Bride and Groom have a private rehearsal 30 minutes before the rest of the Wedding Party arrive. For example, the Bride and Groom come at 5:00 PM to rehearse, then the others (including the Wedding Party and family) arrive at 5:30 PM.

It is recommended that readers and Eucharistic Ministers attend the rehearsal, if that is not possible they should locate the Wedding Host at least 30 minutes prior to the ceremony for instructions. Musicians are not expected to be present for the rehearsal, unless otherwise arranged; visiting musicians are encouraged to attend, to become acquainted with our space and equipment. **Musicians may rehearse prior to the beginning of the rehearsal, but not during or after!**

USE OF CHURCH ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

A **Classroom** will be set aside for your use on the day of your wedding. At North, this is located on the lower level, near the restrooms; at South, it is left of the main entrance door. These are intended for dressing and preparing for the wedding. Bathrooms are located both upstairs and downstairs in the Church, and are available for your use.

If you are planning to bring a snack/lunch, please use the tables in the lower level kitchen (not the tables or kitchenette on the main level). Please supply your own your own utensils, napkins, plates, cups, etc. **CLEAN UP IS REQUIRED!**

The offering fee for the church does not cover use of other areas of the Church. Rental of the Church basement may be done through Bonnie Wolynski, at the Parish Office. **FOOD AND BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE SANCTUARY AT ANY TIME FOR ANY PURPOSE.**

Smoking and alcoholic beverages are **not permitted anywhere** in the church complex.

USE OF CHURCH BASEMENT FOR RECEPTION PURPOSES

If you wish to use the church basement for a meal, please reserve the basement through Bonnie Wolynski, at the Parish Office.

There is a \$100.00 rental fee for use of the church basement AND a contract which must be filled out, signed, and agreed upon with our Custodian. The bride, groom and/or family are responsible for the set-up and clean up, and must serve the meal or have it catered. **The basement should be left in the condition it was found.** The church has cloth tablecloths available and there is an additional fee of \$2.00 per tablecloth if they are used.

If you plan on having a reception on Saturday, we ask that you respect our weekend liturgical schedule. Confessions begin at 4:00 PM, and Mass at 5:00 PM. Your guests should park in our back parking lot and should exit via the kitchen door to the back. Please indicate this on your announcements so that they park in the appropriate location when they arrive.

INFORMATION FOR THE LITURGY

* Only needed if a Mass is included

LECTOR(S) _____

*EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Need 5 Eucharistic Ministers, excluding the Priest)

Bread (Priest) _____ Cup _____ Cup _____

Bread _____ Cup _____ Cup _____

*GIFT BEARERS _____

CANTOR _____

PIANIST _____

OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS OR VOCALISTS _____

ORDER OF SERVICE (for your Program)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PRELUDE (*Optional*) _____

PROCESSIONAL _____

GREETING

GATHERING SONG (*Optional*) _____

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM _____

SECOND READING _____

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ALLELUIA) _____

GOSPEL READING _____

HOMILY

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

DECLARATION OF INTENT
 EXCHANGE OF VOWS
 EXCHANGE OF RINGS
 NUPTIAL BLESSING
 GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (PETITIONS)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(with a Mass – Eucharist)

PREPARATION OF
 GIFTS/LIGHTING OF THE UNITY
 CANDLE *(optional)* _____

EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS—
 “Mass of Creation,” #166, #167, #168, #171

THE LORD’S PRAYER
 SIGN OF PEACE
 COMMUNION
 CLOSING PRAYER / BLESSING
 RECESSIONAL _____
 POSTLUDE _____

or CONCLUDING RITES

(without a Mass – no Eucharist)

UNITY CANDLE LIGHTING
(optional) _____

THE LORD’S PRAYER
 SIGN OF PEACE
 CLOSING PRAYER / BLESSING
 RECESSIONAL _____
 POSTLUDE _____

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- RE-MARRIAGES: If one (or both partners) is marrying for a second time, the couple must attend a course of the Pastor's recommendation. This course will specifically explore issues relating to second marriages and blended families. If either partner has children, they will participate in sessions appropriate to their age and understanding.
- ANNULMENTS: While we try to be as accommodating as possible, couples in which one or both partners need an annulment will be asked to complete that process before celebrating their marriage at Christ Our Light. **No marriage date may be set until the annulment process is completed and granted.**
- COHABITATION: In 1984 the Diocese of St. Cloud issued a statement on couples who live together prior to the celebration of sacramental marriage (cohabitation). *This states that any couple preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Matrimony who are living together must begin living separately immediately.* If the couple refuses to comply, the priest can refuse to witness the marriage. There is growing data which indicates that cohabitation is not good preparation for marriage.

Sexual relations are a sign and symbol of a total gift of one person to another. This total gift is made in the marriage vows in which two people give themselves publicly and irrevocably to each other for life. To engage in sexual relations before making that formal, public, permanent gift and commitment in marriage is to falsify the sacred symbol because no formal commitment has been made. Receiving the sacrament of Holy Matrimony is to ask Christ to be the center of your marriage, making a permanent commitment to each other and God.

- COUPLES WITH OTHER SPECIAL SITUATIONS: Chemical dependency, a history of abuse, or couples who are very young will be required to explore those concerns with competent personnel prior to the celebration of marriage. These issues are not reasons to avoid marriage, but they do have serious impact on relationships and need to be considered as part of the preparation for a healthy marriage.